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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this, the first international library conference held in China and sponsored by a Chinese institution, was to enhance the development of library and information science, promote the status of library and information professionals, and exchange ideas of research and practices in the field. In addition to ceremonial speeches, 134 papers were selected and read, most either written in or translated into English. Thirty-one of these papers are abstracted here, and are intended to provide references to scholars and practitioners who are interested in studying the current status and development of library and information services in many locations throughout the world, particularly China. Topics covered by the papers abstracted include: historical development, philosophical foundations, interactions with socioeconomic changes, technology and automation, management, cataloging and classification, preservation, and education. (MAS)

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THEORIES AND PRACTICES IN WORLD LIBRARIES: Papers Presented at the Wuhan International Symposium

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Abstract

As the first international library conference sponsored by a Chinese institution and held in China, the Wuhan International Symposium on the Development of Theory and Practice of Library and Information Science drew 200 scholars and practitioners from over 40 countries and locations. In addition to ceremonial speeches, 134 papers were selected and read at the symposium, most of them being in or translated into English. The papers cover the topics of historical development, philosophical foundations, interactions with socioeconomic changes, automation, management, and education. This work selects and annotates these papers, with an intention to provide references to scholars and practitioners who are interested in studying the status and development of library information services in many locations in the world, particularly in China.

Introduction

On May 21-25, 1993, the International Symposium on the Development of Theory and Practice of Library and Information Science was held at the Central China Normal University (CCNU) in Wuhan, Hubei, China. Organized by the CCNU's Department of Information Management, the Symposium was the first international library conference sponsored by a Chinese institution and held in China in recent years. In fulfilling the academic objectives of IFLA and FID, the purposes of the Symposium were to enhance the development of library and information science, promote the status of library and information professionals, and exchange

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ideas of research and practices in the field.

More than 200 library and information scholars and practitioners from over 40 countries and locations participated in the Symposium. Most of the participants were employees of various libraries and faculty members of library schools from different provinces throughout China. There were library and information workers from the People Liberation Army, high ranking officials in charge of agencies related to library activities from Chinese governments, and a "dancing" librarian from Beijing. About one forth of them were from overseas, including those professionals from Croatia, Guam, Nepal, Russia, and Turkey. Donald G. Davis, Professor at the University of Texas, representing ALA; Natalia P. Igumnova, Russian State Librarian and IFLA Vice President; Altinay Sernikli, President of Turkish National Library; and Paul Sturges, Professor at Loughborough University and also an IFLA officer, were present.

In addition to the formal meetings of ceremonial, plenary, and group discussion sessions, all participants enjoyed very much the meal service, hospitality, and extra activities offered by CCNU. They were fed three meals a day and more than ten courses each meal during the five day Symposium. Evening dance, music, farewell banquet and other entertainments were also provided.

Participants, particularly those from overseas, also enjoyed the tour of the city. Located at the junction of the Yangtze River and the Han River and with a long history of 3,500 years, Wuhan is one of the largest cities in China and the birth place of the Republic of China. They visited the Yangtze Bridge, the Yellow Crane Tower; the Gui Yuan

Temple; the East Lake, where Mao had a villa nearby and enjoyed swimming when he was alive; and other historical and scenic spots.

They were especially impressed by the beautiful CCNU campus and the work of its Department of Information Management. CCNU is a comprehensive institution founded in 1871. The green woods and the famous fragrance of the Osmanthus on campus made the Symposium a pleasant and memorable experience.

As the birth place of modern Chinese librarianship, the Department was grown out of the Wuchang Boone University's Division of Librarianship. Founded in 1920 with the assistance of Mary Elizabeth Wood, an American librarian, the mother unit of the Department offered the first library education program in China. It might be due to this proud history that the entire faculty and staff were enthusiastic in assisting every participant of the conference. They were at the airport and the train station to meet every one when he arrived. They were again there seeing every one off when he departed.

In addition to several ceremonial speeches, 134 papers, mostly in or translated into English, were selected and read at the Symposium. The papers covered a wide variety of topics, including in the areas of historical development, philosophical foundations, interactions with socioeconomic changes, automation, management, and education. Selected and annotated below are part of the important and interesting papers. The annotations should provide references to scholars and practitioners who are interested in studying the current status and development of

library and information services in many locations of the world, particularly in China. The selection of papers for inclusion is done mostly arbitrarily although many works annotated here represent their subject and geographic areas. Some of the annotations are adopted from the abstracts of the original authors.

An abstract of papers presented at the Symposium was prepared for and distributed to each participant. The abstract was written both in English and Chinese although no table of contents and index were included. As reported, selected papers will be published by the Science Press in China. Contact Prof. Mengfu Kuang at the CCNU's Department of Information Management, Wuhan, China; Fax: 86 (027) 7816070, for detailed information about the abstract and papers.

Selected Papers

An, Bangjian. "The Theoretical Analysis of Bibliographic Cataloging Rules in China."

The paper analyzes the cataloging principle by means of the methodology of system theory, information theory, and cybernetics. It makes a philosophical analysis of epistemology on the bibliographic description for monographs and outlines the theoretical principle of objectivity. It expounds the epistemological significance in specific embodiment of the rule and in the bibliographic works from the view of objective origins and laws.

Chai, Chunqing. "Document Science in China: Traditions and Analysis."

The paper reviews the history of library science in China

beginning with the 20th century. Document science in the paper contains the term of bibliography, library science, and information science.

Davis, Donald G. and Yu, Priscilla C. "Arthur E. Bostwick and Chinese Library Development: A Chapter in International Cooperation."

The authors present the history of Arthur E. Bostwick's travel to China in 1925. The travel promoted public libraries and resulted several library demonstration projects in China.

Deng, Lohua. "Mathematical Application to Library and Information Science in China."

The paper introduces the mathematical application to library and information science in China from 1970s to 1980s. It describes how the application can solve the problems of library services.

Guo, Xiangdong. "The Philosophical Basis for Theoretical Studies of Library Science."

Guo first states the rationale of the establishment of the philosophical basis for developing library science. He then discusses K. Popper's theory of three worlds, the physical, the spiritual, and the knowledge worlds, and suggests that the theory provides a basis for the theoretical studies of library science. Gao, however, argues that the philosophical basis for library science be extended to the theory of four worlds: the natural material, the man's material product, the man's spiritual product, and the man's spiritual worlds.

Guo, Yuqiang and Xia, Lixin. "A Comprehensive Evaluation Based on Fuzzy Mathematics in the Optimization of Foreign Language Periodicals of Shipbuilding Specialty."

The authors argue that the comprehensive evaluation system based on the Fuzzy mathematics covering the criterion of abstract frequency, citation frequency, circulation, and dissertation citation can determine reliably a useful core periodicals for a subject area. Applying this evaluation system, the authors present a core of 35 periodicals in the field of shipbuilding.

Hong, Lim Chee. "The Provision of CAI CBL Materials for Teaching Learning and Its Implementation in a University Library."

The author discusses the scope of CAI (computer-assisted instruction) CBL (computer based learning) course ware packages, the rationale of CAI CBL as resource materials, the application of these materials as teaching-learning resources in the library at the Universiti Sains Malaysia. He also talks about the planning and implementation of the service, including acquisitions, training, and other issues.

Kan, Lai-ping and Chan, Julia L. Y. "International Association of Orientalist Librarians: Past, Present, and Future."

The authors present the Association's organization, purposes, officers, meetings, and publications. They describe the past history and future challenges of the Association.

Kirk, Joyce. "Value Added Information Services: An Approach to the Education of Information Professionals."

The first part of the paper explores the theoretical background of information and the value of information to those

who use it. It also describes information practice and information consolidation, which is oriented to meeting the needs of information users. The second part discusses the development of a graduate course at the University of Technology, Sydney, which is based on alternative models of professional information practice, information consolidation and reflection in action.

Li, Xin and Chen, Xing. "The Design of Book Classification Expert System."

The paper deals with designing an expert system of book classification. It discusses the abstract concept and many details of TSFLZJ (book classification expert system), covering the language understanding, the knowledge, and the control subsystems.

Li, Yan and Li, Jianguo. "Principles and Requirements for Giving Book Numbers."

The paper discusses the need, the principles, and the requirements of assigning unified book numbers. In the section of the principles, the paper points out that (1) the author's full name of a work be covered, (2) the shape and the orientation of the Chinese characters of the title of a work be taken for consideration, and (3) a computer be applied to the assignment of book numbers.

Liu, Kejing. "On the Teaching Model of Education for Library and Information Science in China."

The paper attempts to form a general framework of the teaching model for library and information science education. It consists of three parts: the rationale of forming the model, the basis of the proposed model, and the framework of

the model. In the proposed model, the paper discusses the basis of direction, goal, properties, the application conditions, and the theories of library and information science.

Liu, Xiuxiang. "The Contributions of Documentary Information to Modern Dancing." (in Chinese)
Liu discuss that document materials can be used to (1) enrich the contents of teaching dances, (2) enhance the art of dances, and (3) promote exchanging programs of dancing between China and foreign countries.

Lu, Renyi. "Review on the Third Edition of Chinese Library Classification (Materials Edition)."
The paper points out the advantages and disadvantages of the third edition of the Chinese Library Classification in comparing to its previous editions. It also makes suggestions for the future revision of the Classification.

Lu, Wenpeng. "The Greatest Threat to the Destruction, and the Conservation, of Books."
After reviewing the problems of books being destructed, the paper discusses the DEZ, the Wei T'o, and the miscible deacidification processes for conserving books. It then presents the status and the concepts of conserving books in China.

Ma, Feicheng. "Economic Management Model of Chinese Scientific and Technical Information Work System."
The Chinese Scientific and Technical Information Work is a large system involving with from the central agencies to the local governments, with many different programs. The paper discusses the background, features, models, and policies of the system.

Meng, Guangjun. "Research on Chinese Library and Information Science Journals."

The author surveyed 90 titles of library and information journals published in Chinese. The paper reports the results of the survey study, covering the contents, disciplines, sponsorship, places of publication, frequency, characteristics, and many other details of these journals. It also makes suggestions for their future development.

Naldi, Fulvio and Svare, Jadranka. "DERPI Project: Towards Creating a European Data Exchange and Regional Information Service on Research Activities."

The paper describes DERPI (Data Exchange on Research projects and Institutions) Project's theoretical back ground, history, aims, tasks, expectations, organization, policy, and technical issues.

Peking University Library and Information Science Department. "On the Education of Information in China."

The paper first reviews the status and problems of information education in China. It than discusses the social missions of library and information science education, issues of curriculum design, and the concept of basic principles. The paper devotes a large section in forecasting the demand of information service personnel contingent to year 2000.

Ren, Anliang and Ma, Guoqing. "Computer Aided Bibliographic Analysis and Computer Aided Bibliographic Analysis Database Management System (CABA DBMS)."

The authors first discuss the principle and development of Computer Aided Bibliometric Analysis (CABA), and then

sketch a general CABA Database Management System (CABA DBMS). They present the CABA DBMS's organization, retrieval, analysis, editing and other functions.

Ricciardi, Maria Luisa. "Painted Libraries: From Renaissance to Illuminism: An Italian Paradigm."

On the basis of formal and documentary proof, the author traces the history of ancient Italian libraries in Urbino, Venice, Parma, San Giorgio Maggiore, and Rome. She concludes that in the Renaissance epoch, the creation of libraries was a "state affair;" a state must ostentare its own erudition and its temporal spacial and aesthetic importance which is an intrinsic part of the cultural life of the state.

Sacchanand, Chutima. "The Motivation and Needs of Students Studying Information Science Programs at the School of Liberal Arts, Sukhothai Thammthirat Open University, Thailand."

The paper reports the results of a survey conducted among students in the information science program to study their backgrounds, motivations, needs, and problems. To satisfy personal interest and to broaden knowledge were the main motivations for studying library and information science. Students in distance education program mainly used textbooks and workbooks for their studies.

Shen, Yindon. "CD Technology and Its Applications in China."

The paper presents the contents and characteristics of CD technology, summarizes the applications of the technology in China, and points out problems. It also proposes suggestions to solve the problems.

Storey, Colin. "The Impact of Information Technology and Electronic Systems upon the Management and Organization of the Hong Kong Polytechnic Library."

The paper describes the recent development of information technology in the Hong Kong Polytechnic Library. It analyzes the effects of this development upon the management and organization of the Library. It stresses the management of human resources to meet the growth of electronic systems.

Sturges, Paul. "The Search for a Role for Public Libraries in Britain, 1850 - 1919."

By the description of the British Public Libraries Act, 1850 and by the examination of the way in which 19th century British public librarians explored their service provision, the author attempts to offer a lesson for other nations to develop their public library services. He reviews in detail four main areas of British public library services during the period of his study, namely services to scholarship, adult learning, recreation, and information for business and professional purposes.

Wang, Chih. "Recent Library Development in Micronesia."

The paper reports the major library activities in Micronesia with an attempt to record these developments for future research and to bring attention to the library and information profession the realities of libraries in the region. The work covers only those activities which occurred in "American" Micronesia since 1989. It discusses the library associations, governor's conferences, University of Guam library, and others.

Wang, Shengpei. "On the Indexing and Retrieval of

Chinese Mathematics Literature."

After reviewing the characteristics of Chinese mathematics literature, the author proposes that the indexing of this literature combine the subject words with the key words and with those terms used by Mathematical Review and German Mathematics Abstracts. In the last section of the paper, the author reviews the ways of manual and machine retrieval of this literature.

Wen, Guogiang. "On the Direction of Document Resources Development in Colleges and Universities in China."

Emphasizing the changing atmosphere in the academic libraries in China, the paper suggests strongly to (1) break down the closed system of the past in which each library does its own things on its own ways; (2) promote interlibrary cooperation, including acquisitions, the exchange of documents, and the establishment of periodicals clearing centers; (3) stress quality rather than quantity for library collections; and (4) establish a functional system that will develop the needed policies, laws, and regulations for interlibrary cooperation.

Wu, Xinshu, et al. "Studies on the Construction of the Computer Service System of Scientific and Technical Information in Hubei."

The paper reviews the worldwide trends of computer service of scientific and technical information. It reports the current status, and make suggestions for the establishment, of this service in Hubei.

Xi, Shuping. "The Education of Library and Information Science in China towards the New Century."

The paper reviews the present status of library and

information education in China. It sees that the library and information professional will need to have the knowledge and abilities of administration, managing information, technical and research methodologies to meet the service needs of the new century. It also proposes ways for improvement.

Zheng, Shijue. "Chinese Science & Technology Information Database (CSTID): Development and Utilization."

The paper introduces the development, utilization, subject coverage, hardware and software, problems, and solutions of Chinese Science and Technology Information Database (CSTID).